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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Varga et al.

Examiner: TBA

Serial No.: 10/001,696

Group Art Unit: 2121

Filed: October 31, 2001

For: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IMPROVED VENDING MACHINE
INVENTORY MAINTENANCE**

Attorney's Docket No. 4763-013B

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Box PATENT APPLICATION
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Technology Center 2100

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

For this continuation application based on prior application 09/427,954, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent 6,181,981, please make the following amendments to the claims. A Credit Card Payment Form is enclosed in the amount of \$3,666.00 for the addition of 129 total claims and 16 independent claims. If any additional fees are required in association with this amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to deposit account 50-1732.

In the Claims:

2. A vending machine system, comprising:

a vending machine, comprising:

a compartment comprising a plurality of supply columns that stores a plurality of different types of goods to be dispensed;

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01 FC:102
02 FC:103

1344.00 OP
2322.00 OP

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